

Note:

CONSUMER REGISTER lists proposed & final regulations of Federal agencies. To express your opinion, write. Although comments should reach agencies by the deadline, some agencies will consider comments received late. When in doubt about your comments reaching Washington by the deadline, mail anyway.

Cottage cheese

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the use of polysorbate 80 as a defoaming agent in the preparation of cottage cheese. Approval was effective April 4.

Foam tends to form when cottage cheese curds & dressings (such as milk & cream) are mixed. When the foam breaks down, air space develops in the carton, encouraging mold growth & spoilage.

Polysorbate 80 is an emulsifying agent that discourages the formation of foam & results in a more tightly filled package.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 3, page 12098; June 17, 1972, page 12064. CONSUMER REGISTER: Aug. 1, 1972.

Wine

As of today Treasury Dept. is permitting producers of imported still wine to exceed the maximum amount of carbon dioxide that may be added to the wine.

Permission to exceed the maximum was requested by importers of still wine because it is difficult to control the exact amount of carbon dioxide that is added to wine. Until today only producers of domestic wine could exceed the maximum.

Carbon dioxide is used as a preservative because wine with a low alcohol content tends to spoil on the shelves. Treasury regulations permit carbon dioxide to be added to still wine in small amounts (0.277 gram per 110 milliliters of wine) although larger amounts are permitted in sparkling wine.

However, because of the difficulty in controlling precise amounts of carbon dioxide, Treasury allows a "tolerance"—a variation of 0.009 gram of carbon dioxide per 100 milliliters of wine. This tolerance has now been extended to imported still wines, but it will be disallowed if the producers continuously or intentionally exceed the top allowance. Then the wine could be taxed as sparkling wine which carries a higher tax rate than still wine.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 12, page 13272.

Margarine

Effective June 17, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will permit margarine to be used as an optional ingredient in some canned vegetables. Butter has been used as an optional ingredient in canned vegetables for some time. Food processors may continue to use butter if they prefer.

Details—*Federal Register*: April 16, page 13630; June 27, 1973, page 16909.

Children's sleepwear

Beginning May 1, 1975, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) will require children's sleepwear in

sizes 7 to 14 to be flame resistant. This regulation applies to all robes, pajamas & nightgowns as well as fabrics intended for use in making children's sleepwear.

A similar regulation is in effect covering children's sleepwear in sizes 0 to 6X made or imported on or after July 29, 1973.

Included in the new standards are requirements for permanent care labels, which tell consumers what cleaning agents could lessen the flame resistance of the sleepwear. Other requirements include garment sampling & burn test criteria.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 1, page 15210; March 12, 1973, page 6700; Aug. 9, 1972, page 16003; June 15, 1972, page 11896. CONSUMER NEWS: June 15, 1973; Aug. 15, 1972; June 15, 1972; Sept. 1972. CONSUMER REGISTER: April 1, 1973; Sept. 1, 1972; July 1, 1972.

Labeling small food packages

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is permitting some exemptions to its food labeling requirements on small food packages. Beginning Jan. 1, 1975, it will require full nutrition labeling for (1) all foods for which a nutritional claim is made & (2) all foods to which nutrients have been added. Any exemptions will apply to the size or type for the information because of the small space on some food packages.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 2, page 15268; Dec. 5, 1973, page 33492. CONSUMER NEWS: April 1.

Social Security benefits

June 6 is deadline for comments on Health, Education & Welfare Dept.'s (HEW) proposal to ease Social Security eligibility requirements for the blind & otherwise disabled. The proposal also would gradually reduce the work requirements for men so they can get the same benefits women now get.

Proposed amendments would:

- Provide benefits to legally blind persons even if they have not had substantial work in recent years (all they would need to have would be enough work to be eligible for benefits if they had reached retirement age).
- Reduce the waiting period for persons eligible to receive disability benefits from 6 months to 5 months.
- Enable men, beginning in 1975, to get benefits with the same amount of work that women now need (based on the date of age 62 instead of 65 even if men retire earlier).

Details—*Federal Register*: May 7, page 16152. Send comments to Commissioner of Social Security, Health, Education & Welfare Dept., Room 4146 North Building, Washington, DC 20201.

Vinyl chloride

June 10 is deadline for comments on Occupational

Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) proposal to set health safety standards for workers whose jobs expose them to vinyl chloride.

In January 1974, OSHA asked for information on possible hazards to workers in vinyl chloride manufacturing plants after learning that several employees of B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co. had died of a rare liver cancer (angiosarcoma) that might have been linked to their work with vinyl chloride. Since that time other employees involved in vinyl chloride manufacturing have died from angiosarcoma, & OSHA has set lower maximum levels of vinyl chloride exposure.

Experiments are still being conducted because OSHA cannot at this time set a safe human exposure level for vinyl chloride.

Vinyl chloride safety concerns other agencies also:

- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** is banning household pesticides in aerosol cans that use vinyl chloride.
- **Food & Drug Administration (FDA)** is proposing to ban vinyl chloride in drug & cosmetic aerosol products.
- Polyvinyl chloride used experimentally in plastic liquor bottles (with **Treasury Dept.**'s permission) has been discontinued because chemical "migrated" into liquor.
- FDA has asked drug manufacturers, packers & distributors to list all human drugs containing vinyl chloride or packed or lined with vinyl chloride.
- **Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** is requiring manufacturers of self-pressurized products containing vinyl chloride to provide the agency with pertinent information on production, usage & other data.

Vinyl chloride has been made commercially in the U.S. since 1939, & it is used in many products—including aerosol sprays (some now recalled or banned), car tops, car upholstery, wrapping material & electrical insulation.

The proposal would regulate & monitor areas where vinyl chloride is handled, require protective clothing for workers & require them to have medical examinations to detect any liver problems.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 10, page 16896; May 9, page 16511; April 5, page 12342; Jan. 30, page 3874. *CONSUMER REGISTER*: May 15; July 1, 1973. Send comments to Docket Officer, Docket OSH-36, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, 1726 M St., NW, Washington, DC 20210.

Frozen apple juice

June 15 is deadline for comments on Agriculture Dept.'s revised proposal for U. S. grade standards for frozen concentrated apple juice. The revised proposal reflects comments received on earlier proposals [*CONSUMER REGISTER*: Feb. 1].

The latest proposal changes the product description to include—in addition to whole apples—the use of sound, fresh apple parts (peels, cores & trimmings) in making frozen concentrated apple juice. But the proposal excludes liquid obtained by leaching of residual material (pomace) with water. Agriculture says juice obtained from apple parts—particularly when blended with that from whole apples—is indistinguishable from juice made

from whole apples. Traditionally fresh apple juice has been made from both apples & apple parts.

At present there are no U.S. grade standards for frozen concentrated apple juice.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 14, page 17234; Jan. 16, page 2006; Aug. 20, 1973, page 22406. *CONSUMER REGISTERS* Feb. 15. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Agriculture Dept., Room 112 Administration Building, Washington, DC 20250.

Group inclusive tours

June 17 is deadline for comments on Civil Aeronautics Board's (CAB) proposal to require operators of group inclusive tours (GITs—tours that use scheduled flights) to include in their advertising a clear statement of the total cost to the traveler.

Purpose of the proposal is to eliminate deceptive advertising by GIT organizations. Such advertising seems to place operators of inclusive tour charters (ITCs) at an unfair competitive disadvantage. (An ITC is a trip in which a tour operator arranges a packaged tour that includes hotel accommodations, tours & land transportation, for example.)

CAB requires ITC operators to advertise only the total tour price without specifying the cost of any of the tour's components.

Some GIT operators display a tour price, plainly stated, plus an additional charge for tax & services, for which no amount is specified. "Additional charges" are stated as a percentage of the featured price. Total price usually is not specified.

Under the proposal, CAB would require that when a GIT advertisement includes a statement of air fare, the total tour price—including tax & services—must be stated in print at least as large as the separate statement of the air fare alone.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 2, page 15309; Jan. 19, 1973, page 2124. *CONSUMER NEWS*: April 1, 1973. *CONSUMER REGISTER*: Feb. 1, 1973. Send comments to Docket Section, Civil Aeronautics Board, Washington, DC 20428.

Contraceptives

June 18 is deadline for Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) proposal to require manufacturers of oral contraceptives (the birth control pill) to warn users that the pills will not prevent venereal disease.

FDA decided that warning is necessary because the venereal disease rate has been increasing, & indications are that some users are under the mistaken impression that the oral contraceptives will prevent the disease.

The proposal would require that package labels carry, in addition to side effects warnings, the following statement: "Caution: Oral contraceptives are of no value in the prevention or treatment of venereal disease."

Details—*Federal Register*: April 19, page 13972. Send comments to Hearing Clerk, Food & Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

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